

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0051162

**Permit being assessed:** BB3993ZC

**For:** Nantcribba Barns, **held by:** Nantcribba Barns Management Company

**At:** Forden, Welshpool, SY21 8WA.

**Type of assessment carried out:** Check Monitoring/Sampling,

**Reason:** Routine.

**On** 16/03/2026, between 12:25 and 13:40.

**Parts of permit assessed:** General Management. Emissions to water

**NRW Lead Officer:** Timothy Arlett.

**Report sent to:** Nant Cribba Barns Management Company Limited , Permit holder, on 20/04/2026.

### 1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C2 Significant	3.1.2 The limits given in schedule 3 table s3.1 shall not be exceeded.
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C2 Significant	3.1.2 The limits given in schedule 3 table s3.1 shall not be exceeded
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	C2 Significant	1.1.1 The operator shall manage and operate the activities: (a) in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
		operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

## 2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C1	Bring plant back in to compliance by maintaining and servicing treatment system in accordance of condition 1.1.1	26/06/2026
WQ-C1	Bring plant back into compliance by maintaining and servicing treatment system in accordance of condition 1.1.1	26/06/2026
WQ-A1	Ensure plant is working in accordance with manufactures specifications and as per requirements specified in the Regulation 36 Enforcement notice dated 20/04/2026.	26/06/2026

Action criteria codes are listed in the 'Important information' section below.

## 3. What will happen next?

Any non-compliance we have identified and recorded on this form is an offence. It can result in criminal prosecution and/or suspension or revocation of your permit.

**You are non-compliant with your permit.**

**We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.**

## 4. Details of our assessment

On 23 March 2026, NRW carried out an inspection of the sewage treatment system serving Nant Cribba Barns following multiple reports of operational problems from residents. The biological treatment chamber was found to be surcharging via the adjacent inspection manhole, resulting in partially treated effluent pooling on nearby ground. This indicated hydraulic overloading and insufficient flow-through capacity at the biological stage.

### **(WQ-C1) Emissions and monitoring – Permit Condition 3.1.2 – C2**

A final-effluent sample taken on the same date confirmed non-compliance with the permitted ammonia limit, recording 16.3 mg/L against the authorised 5 mg/L. This constitutes a **breach of**

**condition 3.1.2 The limits given in schedule 3 table s3.1 shall not be exceeded**

**(WQ-C1) Emissions and monitoring – Permit Condition 3.1.2 – C2**

A final-effluent sample taken on the same date confirmed non-compliance with the permitted Biological oxygen demand limit, recording 45.1 mg/L against the authorised 20 mg/L. This constitutes a **breach of condition 3.1.2 The limits given in schedule 3 table s3.1 shall not be exceeded**

## Schedule 3 – Emissions and monitoring

**Table S3.1 Point Source emissions to water (other than sewer) – emission limits and monitoring requirements**

Discharge source and discharge point ref. & location	Parameter	Limit (including unit)	Reference Period	Limit of effective range	Monitoring frequency	Compliance Statistic
Secondary treated sewage effluent via Outlet 1	Maximum daily discharge volume	15 m <sup>3</sup> /day	Total daily volume	N/A	N/A	Maximum
	ATU-BOD as O <sub>2</sub>	20 mg/l	Instantaneous (spot sample)	N/A	N/A	Maximum
	Suspended solids (measured after drying at 105° C)	30 mg/l	Instantaneous (spot sample)	N/A	N/A	Maximum
	Ammoniacal nitrogen (expressed as N)	5 mg/l	Instantaneous (spot sample)	N/A	N/A	Maximum
	Visible oil or grease	No significant trace present	Instantaneous (spot sample)	N/A	N/A	No significant trace

**Action - Bring plant back in to compliance by maintaining and servicing treatment system in accordance of condition 1.1.1**

**(WQ-A1) General Management – Permit condition 1.1.1 – C2**

The system's electrical components, including the air blower and associated controls, were non-operational. The loss of aeration prevented effective oxygen transfer, causing biological process failure and reduced treatment efficiency. The operator had not managed or maintained the system in line with an effective management plan. Critical equipment failures, hydraulic surcharging, and the uncontrolled release of partially treated effluent demonstrate insufficient operational oversight and inadequate measures to minimise pollution risk. Despite repeated complaints, the issues had not been addressed, indicating deficiencies in incident response, maintenance, and resource allocation. These failures amount to **breaches of Condition 1.1.1(a)**

**Action - Ensure plant is working in accordance with manufactures specifications and as per requirements specified in the Regulation 36 Enforcement notice dated 20/04/2026.**

An Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 Regulation 36 notice to comply with permit conditions is to be issued separately compelling improvements to the system to bring it back into compliance

The receiving watercourse is already classified as “poor” for nutrients under the Water Framework Directive. Additional ammonia loading from inadequately treated effluent increases the risk of eutrophication, including algal growth, reduced dissolved oxygen, and impacts on sensitive aquatic species. In waterbodies that already fail nutrient-related WFD targets, even short-term exceedances can hinder ecological recovery and impede progress toward statutory objectives.

*In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.*

If you have any queries about this report, or to discuss completion of any actions, please contact the NRW Officer named above.

## Important information

### Legal status of this report

Your permit is issued to you under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. You have a responsibility to comply with the conditions of your permit and prevent pollution/harm to the environment. You must also ensure that you comply with any other relevant legislation that may apply to your site's operations.

This report explains the findings of our assessment and any action you are required to take. We categorise non-compliance using our guidance for assessing non-compliance at regulated sites.

When we find potential non-compliance/s we will normally give you advice on how to maintain compliance.

To correct non-compliance, we may:

- require you to take specific actions
- issue a notice
- review the conditions of your permit.

Any advice and guidance we give will be without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.

### Assessment results and non-compliance categories (used in section 1):

Assessment result	Description
Assessed (A)	Assessed or assessed in part, no evidence of non-compliance found
Action only (X)	Action required for the permit condition assessed to avoid non-compliance. No non-compliance scored at this time
Ongoing (O)	Ongoing non-compliance, not scored

Non-compliance category	Description
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property

**Full list of water quality action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):****WQ A: Management**

- WQ-A1 General management

**WQ B: Operations**

- WQ-B1 Permitted activities
- WQ-B2 The site
- WQ-B3 Operating techniques
- WQ-B4 Improvement programme
- WQ-B5 Pre-operational conditions

**WQ C: Emissions and monitoring**

- WQ-C1 Emissions to water
- WQ-C2 Emissions to land
- WQ-C3 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- WQ-C4 Monitoring
- WQ-C5 Installation of monitoring boreholes

**WQ D: Information**

- WQ-D1 Records
- WQ-D2 Reporting
- WQ-D3 Notifications

**Enforcement response**

Any non-compliance with a permit condition is an offence and we may take legal action against you. Action we take can include prosecution, serving a notice on you and/or suspension or revocation of your permit. See our Enforcement and Sanctions Guidance for further information.

**Data protection notice**

You should make sure that anyone named in this report knows that the information it contains will be processed by Natural Resources Wales to fulfil its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s).

We may also use and/or disclose the report in connection with:

- offering or providing you with our literature or services relating to environmental matters
- consulting with the public, public bodies and other organisations (e.g. Health and Safety Executive, local authorities) on environmental issues
- carrying out statistical analysis, research and development on environmental issues
- providing public register information to enquirers
- investigating possible breaches of environmental law
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving our service
- Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations requests.

We may also pass it on to our agents or representatives to do these things on our behalf.

**Disclosure of information – this report will be available to view on-line**

If you think this report contains commercially confidential information that should not be placed on our public register, you must contact your local Natural Resources Wales office within **fifteen working days** of receiving this report, using the contact details in the accompanying email or letter. You must give a full explanation of why it should not be added to our public register, including specifying which information is commercially confidential. We will assess your request and respond to you within twenty working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

**Disputing the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form**

If you disagree with the content of this Compliance Assessment Report form, you should submit your concerns, in writing, to the regulating officer who issued it within **15 working days** of its issue. This will be treated as a **Stage 1 review**.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the stage 1 review, you may request a **Stage 2 appeal**. This request must be submitted **within 21 working days** of receiving the response from the stage 1 review.

Further details on our review and appeal process are available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Appeal a regulatory decision from Natural Resources Wales](#)

**Concerns Not Related to the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form**

If your concerns do not relate to the content of the Compliance Assessment Report form, you should first attempt to resolve the issue with the regulating officer or their line manager.

If the issue remains unresolved, please contact our **Customer Contact Team**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday, 09:00–17:00)
- **Email:** [enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

They will provide details on how to escalate your concerns through our **Complaints and Commendations procedure**.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you may contact the **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 790 0203
- **Email:** [ask@ombudsman.wales](mailto:ask@ombudsman.wales)

**Welsh Language Standards**

We are committed to establishing Natural Resources Wales as a naturally bilingual organisation. We will provide compliance reports in your preferred language.